

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final July 18, 2007

In Attendance: Sheri Baron, Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Joseph Curro, Mahendra Desai, Christine Deshler, Nancy Sweeney, Bill Shea

Absent: Jorge Loayza, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz,

Review of June Minutes

Minutes accepted as amended.

Town Day - application filed with request for booth to be located near Library – Christine Carney getting supplies in order – event board will be updated – commissioners filled time slots for table coverage – follow up at next meeting

Diversity Training

Flyer for Sept. 29th event distributed for suggestions – flyer will be reconstructed – this workshop will qualify as an NPFH program event – conflict concern was expressed regarding Arlington's 200th Anniversary Family Picnic celebration being held on this date also - guest list discussed – Joe Curro will speak to the Manager and Superintendent – Robbins House will be booked if available – Joe Curro will draft a cover letter and speak with Manager about lunch for the diversity meeting.

Budget –

Money for EMI Workshop will come from \$3,000 appropriation by Town Meeting Warrant Article – (*APD may help with cost of food for workshop*) - Dialogues average approximately \$300 for each session – need for budget to be more carefully monitored.

Networks and Coalitions –

- 1. No Place For Hate** – had a second Steering Committee meeting – review of the assessment form with suggestions for expanded information – a celebratory event is in the planning for Spring - request made for booth location near AHRC on Town Day.
- 2. MAHRC** – no report as there are no meetings during summer months.

Incidents and Complaints –

Police incident 7/16/07 – discussion regarding homophobic slur – apology accepted - no complaint – question for APD? – was a pamphlet given to complainant? – are cruisers supplied with them?

Gardner Street Incident – Joe Curro sent a letter and complaint form to the victim of verbal assault to let him know we are here if further help is needed.

Swastikas painted on bike path – not sure how long they have been there – they will be painted out – Sheri Baron suggested that pictures be taken of all graffiti reports for our records – discussion of graffiti bylaw – question of who is responsible for clean up of privately owned buildings and is there a time limit to having it removed – Sheri Baron will speak with John Maher in this regard.

Brckett School incident – meeting was held with complainant - Marlissa Briggett and Joe Curro will work on a follow up letter to superintendent.

Subcommittee Reports -

Dialogue – meeting held tonight resulted in four suggestions – (*at Senior Center?*)

- 1. Islam – October 18th**
- 2. Health Care Disparities – November 15th**
- 3. Immigration – February 7th**
- 4. Social Class & Economics – March 20th**

Policies and Procedures – no report

Schools – suggestion that at the beginning of the school year all schools be notified of the AHRC and the reasons for our existence.

Rapid Response/Publicity – e-mail listing is still a work in progress – Capt. Serson has moved on and Lt. Hughes is now our APD contact – he was not aware of our Rapid Response efforts – Sheri Baron will write an article for the Advocate as a means for keeping the public informed – discouraging report of how few people actually read the newspaper – discussion on how else can we get the word out – consider a one page flyer be distributed with the annual census in January, 2008 – also make flyer with AHRC information available for Town Day table.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marylynn Carnell